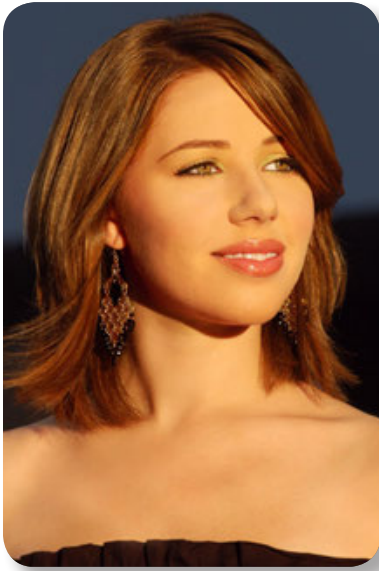


Rachael Price



Imagine touring Europe with an international choir, singing solos in France and Spain—all at age 12! Rachael Price did just that—with the Voices of Bahá, a Bahá'í choir directed by her dad, Tom Price. Today, she's a much-acclaimed singer who tours widely.

Rachael grew up in Tennessee, U.S. She recorded her first CD in high school. She worked as a jazz vocalist while attending the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Rachael and three classmates also started the soulful pop-rock band, Lake Street Dive. Rachael has performed around the world and made several CDs. She says, "My goal is to be playing shows . . . and to make records as long as I can." She lives in New York City, where she likes to do yoga, dance, and go out to hear live music.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: Dancing around the kitchen with my sisters or singing in my house with my dad and my sisters.

Q: How did you decide you wanted to be a singer?

A: I've been singing since I was really little . . . I decided that I was not going to go to a college that offered anything but music classes . . . It's all I did. The possibility of it was always a very encouraged thing in my house . . . I just decided . . . this is what I want to do, so this is what I should study, all the way.

Q: You performed with the Voices of Bahá and toured internationally as a kid. What impact did those experiences have on you?

A: I definitely got a taste for life on the road . . . because of those trips, I've always loved that and wanted that to be my life . . . I also definitely developed a taste for the rest of the world and all the different types of people . . . What kinds of things people respond to musically I think was a huge impact on how I think about music and how I perform . . . It doesn't matter if you're in Tennessee singing Gospel or in Hungary doing Gospel . . . The spiritual basis of it and the depth of it comes across no matter what, in any language.

Q: How did you decide to focus on jazz music?

A: I started listening to Ella Fitzgerald [at about five] . . . I don't think a lot of people my age were listening to it . . . there was something about that . . . I liked.



Above: At age 12, Rachael traveled to Spain and France with the mostly adult choir, Voices of Bahá. **Below:** The cover for Rachael's first CD

Q: What inspired you to record the CD *Dedicated to You* in high school?

A: I think about making albums as like a snapshot, taking a photo of where you are at that moment in time. So I wasn't the most accomplished jazz singer at 17, but . . . I wanted to take a photo of what I sounded like then.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



Q: What was most challenging about navigating the music business at 17?

A: I just think being who you are, figuring out what it is that you like, the type of show that *you* want to put on, the way you want to present yourself, versus all the ways people are saying works better, makes more money . . . is more popular. That's the hardest part, especially when you're young . . . Choosing . . . what it is that actually works for you.

Q: What do you like best about performing?

A: I like *everything* about performing . . . I like the feeling before I get onstage. I love being onstage. I love being in front of people. I'm way more comfortable on a stage than talking to them in a group of people . . . I just love opening up my mouth and communicating with a melody more than anything else.

Q: What's been your favorite musical experience so far?

A: There's definitely a certain type of audience that's extremely special, and they're sort of rare and hard to find . . . I've performed in Panama and Brazil, and I don't think I've experienced a more excited audience . . . They're so focused on what you're giving them that it's like you give them a quarter, and they're throwing twenties back at you . . . That's how it feels. You give them one note, and they give you all of their love back. They're just so appreciative.

Q: How does the Bahá'í Faith influence your work?

A: We believe that music is praise, and that is service, and service is prayer, and so that's how I think about it . . . I think music is an extremely spiritual art form. I do it for praise and gratitude. That's what the Faith has taught me about music.

Q: What's your advice for kids who want to pursue a career in music?

A: The age-old "Practice!" is very helpful. You have to do it a lot and in a lot of different ways, and you have to try a lot of different things. I would say, try anything.



Top: Lake Street Dive tours around the U.S. Left to right are Rachael, Mike Calabrese (drums), Mike Olson (trumpet, guitar), and Bridget Kearney (bass). **Bottom:** Rachael performed in Oregon, U.S., in 2012.

Q: What do you say when someone asks, What is the Bahá'í Faith?

A: [It depends] on who I'm speaking to, but how I always think about it is the Faith is really *cool* . . . What is *not* awesome about it? . . . When people ask me, I just think how cool it is . . . and I want to tell them about it.

Q: If you had one wish for *Brilliant Star* readers, what would it be?

A: I wish that they do everything that they want to do and they do it in the way they want to do it.